

2026 BALLOT ACCESS CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT CANDIDATES



Each of the following forms must be completed and filed on time by a candidate for School District office in order for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot at the **February 17, 2026 Spring Primary** and the **April 7, 2026 Spring Election**. The filing officer for School District offices is the School District Clerk. Candidates should contact their filing officer for further information or to obtain any of the necessary forms.

All School District Candidates must:

- ☐ **Register your Campaign Committee** A current registration (CF-1L) must be filed prior to raising or spending any funds, and no later than **5:00 p.m. on January 6, 2026** or the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. For questions, please contact the Wisconsin Ethics Commission: ethics@wi.gov | 608-266-8123.
- ☐ **Complete and Submit a Declaration of Candidacy (Form EL-162sd)** to the filing officer no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026** or the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. If the form is faxed or emailed, the original document must follow, postmarked no later than January 6, 2026. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(5), 8.21, 8.30(4), Wis. Admin. Code EL § 6.04.

If nomination papers are used, a school district candidate must also:

- ☐ **Circulate and Submit Nomination Papers for Nonpartisan Office (Form EL-169)** to the filing officer no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026**. Only original nomination papers (no photocopies, faxes, or emailed documents) will be accepted. Nomination papers may not be circulated before December 1, 2025. Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2), Wis. Admin. Code EL § 6.04(2).

The number of signatures required is as follows:

Board of School Directors - 1st Class Cities	400 - 800
School District Officer - with Territory within a 2nd Class City	100 - 200
School District Officer - with no Territory within a 1st or 2nd Class City	20 - 100

Important Note Regarding Statements of Economic Interests:

A municipality may enact an ordinance establishing a code of ethics for public officials that may require a candidate for municipal office, *in addition to the office of Municipal Judge*, to file a **Statement of Economic Interests (SEI)**. The ordinance may also provide that failure to timely file an SEI will prevent the candidate's name from being placed on the ballot. Wis. Stat. § 19.59(1m),(3)(b). Please contact the filing officer to learn if this requirement applies to you.